restructuring of public enterprises etc. Policy initiatives announced in the Budget are expected to have a favourable impact on growth during the current year.

Water Tanks in Karnataka

*40. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that water tanks existed in the country, even before construction of dams across the rivers;

(b) whether many tanks in the country are aged about 100 to 500 years;

(c) whether it is a fact that in Karnataka, particularly in old Mysore parts, there are more than 100 year old tanks and farmers are raising crops by using tank water;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether non-desilting of tanks would affect the farmers; and

(f) if so, what are the remedies for the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) to (f) Tanks have traditionally been an important source of water resources for various uses in India. Large number of tanks existed in the country even before construction of dams. Out of the total five lakh tanks in the country, Karnataka itself has more than 40,000 tanks. Most of the existing tanks in different parts of India including Karnataka have been inherited from ancestors and are many centuries old. Siltation of tanks is a continuous process which keeps occurring with the passage of time and due to neglect of its maintenance as well. Desiltation of tanks, if not done, could reduce their original storage capacity and in turn affect the water resource availability. Therefore, tanks need to be maintained properly and timely.